

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

I also feel that if you allow Comcast cable and AT&T Broadband to merge and greatly affect the masses in 17 of the top 20 markets, then there should be another strong outlet that a person like myself have to turn to so that I can assure that I receive a resonable price from the cable provider that I so choose

Sincerely,

Frank Ward  
105 4th St  
Ironton, OH 45680